



March 2013

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Fabulous Plants and Stories from the East Bay Flora

Speaker: Heath Bartosh

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)



Alameda and Contra Costa counties are at a point of botanical convergence. This convergence is a result of the meeting of nearby geographic regions such as the San Francisco Bay, the North and South Coast Ranges, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the San Joaquin Valley. This unique congregation of ecological conditions provides the foundation for the extremely diverse area of native plants found here. Amazingly, the East Bay contains 22 percent of the California flora! Many of these plants are also considered protected, as we have over 600 locally rare plants and 125 statewide rarities.

Heath Bartosh's presentation, full of maps and pictures, takes a tour through some of the East Bay's richest botanical hot spots. During this tour he will reflect on colorful botanical personalities of past and present, identify public lands and trails such as Black Diamond Mines and Mount Diablo where anyone can see our botanical riches, and learn about current conservation allies and issues that put the botanical treasures of the East Bay at risk.

Heath Bartosh is co-founder and Senior Botanist of Nomad Ecology, based in Martinez. He is currently Rare Plant Committee Chair for the East Bay Chapter of CNPS. In 2009, he became a member of the Rare Plant Program Committee at the state level of CNPS. His role is to ensure these programs continue to develop current, accurate information on the distribution, ecology, and conservation status of California's rare and endangered plants. In addition, he helps promote the use of this information to influence on-site plant conservation in California. Mr. Bartosh is also a Research Associate at the University and Jepson Herbaria at UC Berkeley and a Save Mount Diablo Board Member.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Call 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR: MAY 5

Registration for the Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2013 from 10:00 to 5:00, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features forty Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill, so register early to ensure a place.

Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>

Companion events: The Native Plant Sale Extravaganza will take place throughout the weekend of May 4 and May 5. Select Tours, small group, guided tours and workshops, will take place throughout April and May. See the website for details.

Kathy Kramer

NATIVE HERE

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour and Nursery Extravaganza

Native Here Nursery will participate in this year's extravaganza by extending hours on Saturday, May 4, opening at 10 am and remaining open until 5 pm! A botanical treasure hunt will be ongoing—with prizes for those who find all the plants on the treasure hunt sheet. At 11 am John Danielsen will talk about "Selecting Local Natives for Your Garden".

Go to www.bringingbackthenatives.net for info on registration, volunteering, etc.

The nursery will not be open on Sunday, so that our volunteers can visit the gardens on the tour.

The nursery needs members willing to help sell plants, "grade" the treasure hunt sheets, etc. on Saturday. Contact the nursery to sign up.

Plant Fair Planning

We are starting the planning process for the October 11-12, 2013 Plant Fair. If you are interested in helping as part of the core planning group, now is a good time to "sign on" by contacting the nursery nativehere@ebcnps.org or the Plant Fair volunteer coordinator, Steve Toby stevetoby@comcast.net.

Native Here Plants Help in Screening New Park Staff

In the picture to the right (by Janice Bray) park staff are shown returning plants used in the exam for new East Bay Regional Park Rangers. Native Here's large display plants along with smaller plants from the EBRP Botanic Garden were used to test applicants' knowledge of local flora.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound at Native Here

At the close of the nursery's 20th year of operation, December 31, 2013, founder Charli Danielsen is stepping down from her management role. The chapter board is looking at various options for continuing the nursery, and Charli is busy parsing out all the tasks involved. As she does this, "bite sized pieces" of work she and John have been doing are being identified along with work that other volunteers have routinely done. Working at the nursery is really fun and a wonderful way to keep physically active. Of course there are also those necessary tasks that must be done at home or in an office, but those can be rewarding as well. Currently there is plenty of "drop in"

work potting, moving plants to hardening off areas, from those areas to the sales area, writing up sales, and spot watering. Gudrun Kleist has taken on responsibility for growing, caring for, separating and packaging bulbs. Delia Taylor is now responsible for wild ginger and violets. Susan Holtslander is caring for, growing, dividing and labeling ferns.

To volunteer or get more information, contact Margot or Charli by phone 510-549-0211 or nativeherenursery@ebcnps.org or come join us working at the nursery during regular hours of operation Tuesdays noon-3, Fridays 9-noon, or Saturdays 10-2.



"Bite-sized" Native Here Nursery on-site projects looking for an eager volunteer:

- Maintaining the display collection of plants in 15 gallon cans, culling out dead ones, updating labels, weeding, grooming, replacing, inventorying.
- Watering, weeding, grooming, maintaining inventory of a portion of the nursery representing a geographic section (Several opportunities).
- Just watering one or more of those sections once a week (Several opportunities).
- Cashiering and recording sales on a day the nursery is currently open, and perhaps being willing to keep

it open for sales other times.

- Learning about striking cuttings and becoming responsible for receiving them
- Keeping the driveway clear of plant litter.
- Maintaining the education area by weeding, re-chipping, etc.
- Maintaining the carts and other nursery equipment.

“Bite-sized “ projects requiring some work from home:

- Answering the phone, responding to voice messages
- Working with our official photographer, Janice, to caption and post on Facebook.
- Monitoring the Facebook page, nursery website and/or nursery pages on the chapter website in order to keep them fresh and interesting
- Writing the copy each month for the *Bay Leaf*
- Helping maintain the seed collection data base
- Printing and laminating “plant cards” before large sales events
- Planning, recruiting leaders and publicizing a work-



Iris douglasiana available at Native Here. Photo by Janice Bray.

shop or special talk at the nursery.

- Entering inventory information in an Excel file from volunteers’ handwritten lists.



John and Allen potting. Photo by Janice Bray.



Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), now in bloom in the nursery. Photo by Janice Bray.

Aridity, more than anything else, gives the western landscape its character. It is aridity that gives the air its special dry clarity; aridity that puts brilliance in the light and polishes and enlarges the stars; aridity that leads grasses to evolve as bunches rather than as turf, aridity that exposes the pigmentation of the earth and limits, almost eliminates the color of chlorophyll...To eyes trained on universal chlorophyll, gold or brown hills may look repulsive. Sagebrush is an acquired taste, as are raw earth and alkali flats. . . You have to get over the color green; you have to quit associating beauty with gardens and lawns. . .

Wallace Stegner

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, March 17, 9:30 am, Seafoam Loop and Black Oak Loop at Kennedy Grove, El Sobrante

Gregg Weber will be leading this trip to a botanically rich area in El Sobrante. In the shady areas under bay trees, there is more plant diversity than you would expect, with many common natives and some unusual ones. This is a short 2.5 mile walk, with only a 400 feet elevation gain up to the ridge and a 150 feet elevation gain on Black Oak Loop.

Directions: From I-80, exit at San Pablo Dam Road and turn left onto Castro Ranch Road in El Sobrante. From Orinda, follow San Pablo Dam Road to El Sobrante. Turn right onto Castro Ranch Road. Go two blocks on Castro Ranch Road, and then turn right onto Hillside Drive. Go about ½ mile to the end of Hillside Drive, and then turn left on Patra Drive and park near the trailhead. No entrance fees. Do not turn into the Kennedy Grove park entrance on San Pablo Dam Road.

Sunday, March 17, 2:00 pm, the Bird Trail in Chabot Regional Park. Meet at the Macdonald Staging Area Parking Lot (on Redwood Road, about 1.7 miles from Skyline Blvd on the right and about 1/4 mile towards Oakland from the Redwood regional Park entrance). Western leatherwood, trillium, osoberry, flowering currant and many others are in bloom.

Directions: To get there from the northern East Bay, get on 13 South (go east on Ashby Avenue in Berkeley, for example) and take the Redwood Road exit. From Oakland, go east on 35th Avenue (which turns into Redwood Road). From the southern East Bay, take 580 West to 13 North and exit at Redwood Road (immediately after the junction). From San Francisco, take the Bay Bridge, staying to the right (but do not go to San Jose). Take 580 East, and then 24 East (towards Walnut Creek). Take the 13 South exit from 24 and then the Redwood Road exit. Once on Redwood Road, go east (uphill). At the top of the hill you will cross Skyline Boulevard and then pass various equestrian facilities. Go down into the valley. About 1.7 miles from Skyline Boulevard, turn right into the MacDonald Staging area parking lot. If you come to the entrance to Redwood Regional Park on the left, you have gone about 1/4 mile too far. Walk takes place rain or shine.

Sunday, April 7, 9:30 am, Toyon Canyon at Briones Regional Park

Gregg Weber leads this trip to a floristically rich area of Briones Regional Park. The canyon trail descends 300 feet, and a 300-foot gain follows. We may see unusual plants in flower such as *Viburnum ellipticum*, *Eschscholzia caespitosa*, *Lomatium californicum*, *Helianthella castanea*, and *Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia*, plus many more familiar plants such as coyote mint, *Wyethia*, clematis, hop tree, dutchman's pipe, and osoberry. We will return to the cars at about 2-3pm.

Directions: From west of the Bay hills, go east on 24 and exit at Pleasant Hill Road. Go north on Pleasant Hill Road 0.5 mile and then turn left onto Reliez Valley Road. Go 4-5 miles on

Reliez Valley Road to its end at the junction with Alhambra Valley Road. Ignore the entrance signs on Reliez Valley Road and continue straight on Alhambra Valley Road to the first left turn, which is Briones Road. Go about 1.5 miles to the end of Briones Road and park on either side of the road. For the Pinole/Martinez area just proceed down Alhambra Valley Road and follow the directions to the end of Briones Road.

Saturday, April 13, 9:30 am, Mitchell Canyon at Mount Diablo State Park

Gregg Weber will lead the hike up the canyon during the mid-spring abundance of oak woodland and grassland flowers, including buttercups, larkspurs, owls clover, blue dicks, and Mount Diablo globe lily and other *Calochortus*. Bring \$10 for parking or your state parks pass. A couple of good books that describe this area's plants are Barbara Ertter's updated *Flora of Mount Diablo* (from Mary Bowerman's earlier version), and Yulan Tong's photo book on *Calochortus*.

Directions: From west of the Oakland/Berkeley hills take 24 east and continue to the 680 interchange. Follow the lanes marked for 680 north, but then move immediately to the Ygnacio Valley Road exit, and turn right at the traffic light at the end of the ramp to go east. Stay on Ygnacio Valley Road for several miles (past John Muir Hospital, through suburbs, past the Lime Ridge entrance and a Cal State campus) to Clayton Road, where you turn right at another traffic light. Go through several intersections on Clayton Road, and then turn right again at Mitchell Canyon Road. Go to the parking lot at the end (there is a fee). Meet at the start of the trail near the visitor's center.

Saturday, April 20, 9:30 am, Burma Road at Mount Diablo State Park

Meet at 9:30 am at the Burma Road crossing of North Gate Road in Mount Diablo State Park. We will walk Burma Road from Camel Rock to Moses Rock Spring. We will see a variety of spring flowers and some uncommon plants as we pass through woodland, grassland and chaparral areas. There is a 1000-foot elevation gain on the way out, and downhill on the way back. The round trip is about 4 miles and should take about 4 hours, so bring lunch and water. We will not be deterred by rain and will proceed regardless of weather. Call Gregg Weber at 510-223-3310 if you have questions about this or other Mt. Diablo field trips.

Directions: Take the North Gate Road entrance to the park. State parks charge \$10 for cars. Continue on North Gate Road for about 3 miles and park at the Angel Kerley Trailhead. Don't meet at the Burma Road crossing as in previous years.

Sunday April 21 at 1:00. Come see the flower blooms around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay. Participants should see endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), as well as *Downingia pulchella*, several *Plagiobothrys*, and other native vernal pool and upland species. A refuge docent will lead a tour of the Warm Springs Unit of

the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR. The walking tour will last about 1.5-2 hours. Total walking distance will not exceed one mile, but terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. Heavy rain will cancel. Directions: We will meet off Cushing Blvd. in Fremont. Take 880 to the Fremont Blvd. / Cushing Parkway Exit. Exit 13B toward Cushing. Turn left on Fremont (if you are coming from the north, turn right on Fremont) and right on Cushing Parkway. Pass the light at Northport Loop. On the left side, immediately after the LAM business park, there will be a blue pipe gate across a gravel road. We will meet here.

Ivette Loreda, Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR. 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, 9455. 510-792-4725 x134 (office phone). 510-792-5828 (fax). 510-377-5956 (cell).

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, March 16, 10 am-noon, Garber Park (near the Claremont Hotel). Meet at the Evergreen Lane entrance. Join us as we continue our Spring Invasive Weed Removal Project. While we made great progress at our February workdays in removing the big stands of French broom and several large patches of Cape ivy there's still lots more to root out. We will also pull Himalayan blackberry, poison hemlock, *Vinca*, *Ehrharta*, thistle, and spurge as time permits.

Everyone welcome. No experience necessary. Garber provides a great opportunity for students to get community service hours. Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good treads.

Directions: The nearest address is 144 Evergreen Lane, Berkeley. From Ashby take Alvarado Road to Slater Lane. Turn right onto Evergreen Lane. The entrance is at the end of the street. For more information and a map www.garberparkstewards.org, or contact Shelagh at 510-540-1918 at orgarberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 16th, 9:00 am, Detention Pond Reconstruction. Come join the Watershed Stewards Project and Redwood Park staff and revitalize an old detention pond, construct permeable rock check dams and plant riparian natives along this small drainage in the Orchard Picnic Area. This work is expected to significantly reduce excessive, sediment loading to Redwood Creek, increase water infiltration and ultimately benefit the native rainbow trout. RSVP to Sarah.turner@ccc.ca.gov.

We'll have snacks and hot coffee for the hungry, gloves for the forgetful and technu for the brave! Remember to wear long sleeves, long pants, close toed shoes.

Give us a holler if you're coming to any of these events. We want to make sure we have enough cookies! Meet at Canyon Meadow parking lot, 7867 Redwood Road, Oakland. If you

Sunday, April 28, 9:30 am, East Trail at Mount Diablo State Park Meet across from the Divide Reservoir sign on Marsh Creek Road in Clayton. This trip goes through some very nice native plant habitat on the northeast side of Mount Diablo, with an interesting live oak forest.

Saturday May 4, Black Diamond Regional Park
Gregg Weber will lead.

Sunday, May 12, 2:00 pm, Pioneer Tree Trail at Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin County
David Margolies will lead.

are under 18 bring a note from a parent or guardian giving you permission to participate in the project.

Di Rosario
Park Supervisor | Park Operations
East Bay Regional Park District
7867 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619
Tel: 510-544-3126
DRosario@ebparks.org | www.ebparks.org

Sunday, March 17, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park
Meet at the parking lot off of Skyline in Oakland, a short distance north of the Huckleberry Park lot. If you want to come from the Old Tunnel Road staging area, please e-mail in advance to jmanley@ebparks.org to let us know to expect you.

Saturday, April 6, 9:00 am, Redwood Regional Park, starting from Canyon Meadows
Come enjoy the amazing views and company as we remove French broom, an invasive shrub and ladder fuel along the East Ridge Trail at the junction of Canyon Trail. We've been working this area for several years now and you can really see that the balance has tipped in favor of native grasses, shrubs and trees! There will be a short but very invigorating hike up hill to the work site. Prepare to get your cardio on!

Meet at the Canyon Meadow parking lot, 7867 Redwood Road, Oakland.

Saturday, April 6 (first Saturday of each month), 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Ft. Isabel
We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site. We are located at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

GRASSLANDS OF POINT MOLATE SHORE

When the first Spanish explorers ventured through the Golden Gate into San Francisco Bay they mapped out two large bays, one to the south, San Francisco Bay, and one to the north, San Pablo Bay. The gap between the two bays was cut off by a low grassy island mountain barely connected to the East Bay via a large inner maritime marshland that separated the island from the mainland. The mariners named it "Potrero San Pablo" and the name stuck because it was an open grassland/meadow (i.e., *Potrero*). On the Marin side of the Bay the mountain topography is higher, dominated by an oak/bay forest and glens of open valley oak, black oak, Oregon oak

marsh was filled for the refinery. One of the earliest and most imposing structures along the Point Molate shore is the large brick building that once housed the Winehaven wine bottling and shipping business at Pt. Molate from the early 1900's until Prohibition. Later this area became a Navy base for storing fuels and oil. This was abandoned in the late 1970's.

I was drawn to explore the Potrero San Pablo grasslands in the early 1970's while searching for local populations of native grasses for restoring the soon to be built Berkeley waterfront Park. To my amazement, I found a native red fescue growing

in the grasslands. In 1970 no one took much notice of native grasses and most assumed that any red fescue in the Bay Area was introduced. But this red fescue was a very special ecotype with thick bluish leaves. I was amazed that it grew vigorously along the shoreline from the water's edge to the top of the Potrero. I dubbed it "Molate fescue" after Point Molate on the western side of the Potrero San Pablo facing Mt. Tamalpais. I've found myself returning to the Potrero San Pablo/Point Molate hills and shore often and explored the rich variety of native grasses. It is one of the best places to see a remnant coastal prairie to the edge of the Bay.



Mule's ears (*Wyethia* sp.) in bloom in the Pt. Molate grassland with Mount Tamalpais in the distance. Photo by David Amme.

woodland with manzanitas and chamise. The eastern end of this range is known as China Point. Between China Point and Potrero San Pablo is the narrows where the waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers pass into San Francisco Bay. Today, Potrero San Pablo, including the west side shore facing Mt. Tamalpais, is one of the last undeveloped tracts of shoreline habitat in the East Bay where the hills come right down to the water's edge.

For over 5,000 years before the Spanish arrived, the Ohlone/Huchian Band of Native Americans lived in surrounding area, hunting, fishing, and using controlled burns to manage the landscape. They harvested abundant shellfish along the shores and marshes creating large middens. Potrero San Pablo was occupied during the Mexican land grant period followed by the 49'ers and Chinese shrimpers until the early 1900's. The grassland was grazed primarily by horses and cattle. Later in the 20th century Standard Oil bought a large portion of the Potrero and built an oil refinery that fortunately is largely hidden on the eastern side of the Potrero ridge where most of the

Geologically Potrero San Pablo is a low ridge, part of the narrow gap between San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. From the Pt. Molate shore you can often watch the summer fogbank rolling past San Quentin, under the Richmond Bridge drawn towards San Rafael and San Pablo Bay. Generally the western shoreline of the Potrero mostly stays sunny with the 2500 ft. Mt. Tamalpais in the distance. The East Bay features include Cerrito Hill in Richmond and Albany Hill in Berkeley. Beyond that is the parallel range of the Berkeley Hills that dives into the center of San Pablo Bay at Point Pinole. The last remaining open grasslands on the Berkeley Hills remain on San Pablo Ridge in Wildcat Canyon where cattle still roam and California oatgrass and purple needlegrass grow.

Potrero San Pablo is uniquely situated. It seems to sit in the rain shadow of Mt. Tamalpais, but actually receives abundant rainfall during major storms and squalls, more precipitation than the rest of the East Bay shoreline. Molate fescue grows on rocky and loamy coastal soils in and around the northern San Francisco Bay. The Molate fescue ecotype is found on either side of the Bay from Point Molate to China Point in Marin County. It grows on San Bruno Mountain and along

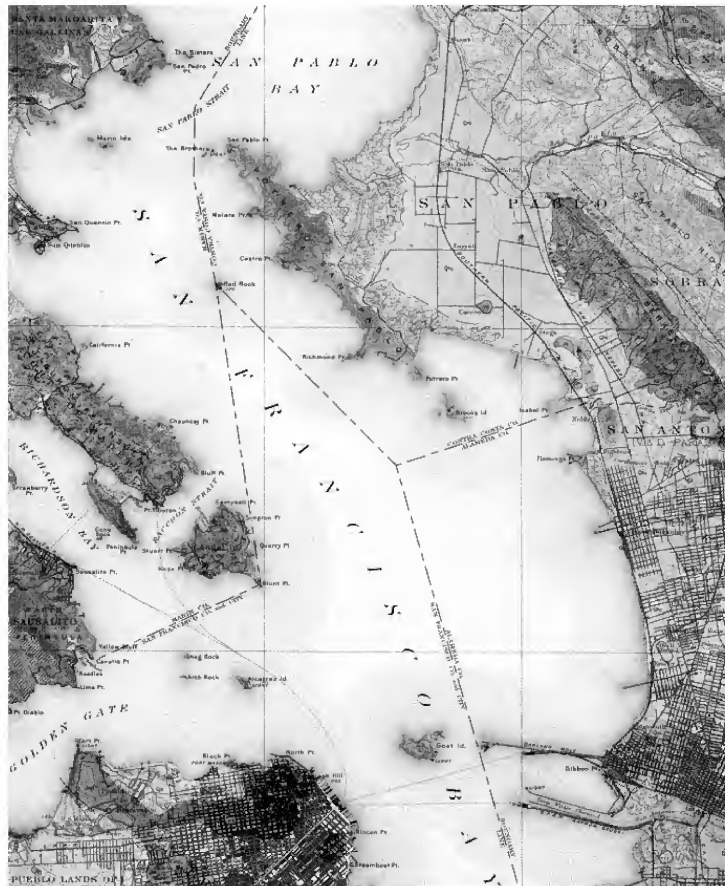
the coast of Pacifica where it grows with tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) along Highway 1. There are several forms of the Molate fescue growing along the Big Sur coast and on discontinuous locations north of Pt. Arena to Arcata and Patrick's Point in Humboldt County.

Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), and the creeping Diego bentgrass (*Agrostis pallens*). Native woody plant communities include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and the ubiquitous coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). There are beautiful stands of Mule's ears (*Wyethia angustifolia*) and pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) and a host of large and small understory native woody and emergent plants. The primary native trees are coast live oak, bay, toyon, and willow. The undisturbed native grassland is very stable. The coyote brush remains in check, unlike that in most of the disturbed East Bay grasslands, which has turned into solid thickets over ten feet tall. This is due primarily to the grassland soil stability and the creeping native *Agrostis pallens* that climbs into the coyote brush keeping the plants small and far apart, often snuffing them out into weak, dying and dead branches. The most critical threat to the Pt. Molate grasslands is the large, solid French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) infestations that were spread by road grading in the late 1980's

The plant communities of the Potrero Hills support gray fox, coyotes, mule deer, black-tailed jackrabbits, and an endless variety of native birds, including jays, seagulls, buzzards, and several soaring raptors. The subtidal zone supports one of the largest beds of the rare eelgrass that provides critical habitat for herring to feed and spawn, and a host of other aquatic species including salmon, Dungeness crab, striped bass, steelhead trout and starry flounder. In turn the fish and invertebrates are an important food source for ducks, shorebirds, and the endangered least tern.

In 2010 the western side of the Pt. Molate shore near the Winehaven building was almost made into a huge casino complex with all the trimmings. Fortunately this was defeated by the City of Richmond voters with a resounding "No". The Point Molate coast and the Potrero San Pablo hills are still not safe. Proposals for condominiums on the shore are still in the works. But there is good reason to hope that the California Native Plant Society, the California Native Grassland Association, the Sierra Club, and other activist organizations will persuade the voters of the City of Richmond to save this precious resource for future generations.

David Amme



San Francisco Quadrangle - AREAL GEOLOGY, U.S. Geological Survey, A.H. Thompson (geographer), Andrew C. Larson (geology), Edition of 1913

Any time of day or year the views are beautiful and the sunsets spectacular. Pt. Molate probably has the best view of Mt. Tamalpais with all it changes and textures in the sunsets and late afternoon fogs. The special combination of climate and topography has created a vibrant plant community. In addition to the Molate red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), the coastal prairie contains beautiful stands of California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), one-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), California melic (*Melica californica*), Torrey's melic (*Melica torreyana*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), squirreltail (*E. elymoides*), including a large hybrid form (*E. x hansenii*),

was defeated by the City of Richmond voters with a resounding "No". The Point Molate coast and the Potrero San Pablo hills are still not safe. Proposals for condominiums on the shore are still in the works. But there is good reason to hope that the California Native Plant Society, the California Native Grassland Association, the Sierra Club, and other activist organizations will persuade the voters of the City of Richmond to save this precious resource for future generations.

REPORT FROM THE CONSERVATION ANALYST

SR-239/ TriLink Connector Highway Between Brentwood and Tracy

Since I last reported on this project last summer I have attended two planning meetings regarding the two-year scoping study for a proposed roadway between Tracy and Brentwood. This roadway is being dubbed "TriLink" or State Route 239, and it is being considered due to a \$14 million federal grant earmarked by State Representative Richard Pombo when he was a member of the House of Representatives. The proposed roadway would connect SR 4 in Brentwood with 205 in Tracy and would possibly also link up with 580 east of the Altamont Pass. At the last two meetings I discussed the importance of EBCNPS's Botanical Priority Protection Areas with the planners. The proposed roadway would impact both our Altamont BPPA and our Byron BPPA. I also supplied the planners with overlays from our BPPA maps, including the alkaline soils layer. Because of this input, at the most recent meeting the planners presented a new alternative that represents a great improvement in avoiding the sensitive areas of our BPPAs. This project is still in its very early phases, but I am glad to see that our input is being considered and used in a constructive manner. I will continue to follow this project and will report with any updates after the next meeting in the summer.

CNPS Submits Comments for California Board of Forestry's draft Vegetation Treatment Program EIR

At the end of February, the California Native Plant Society submitted comments to the California Board of Forestry re-

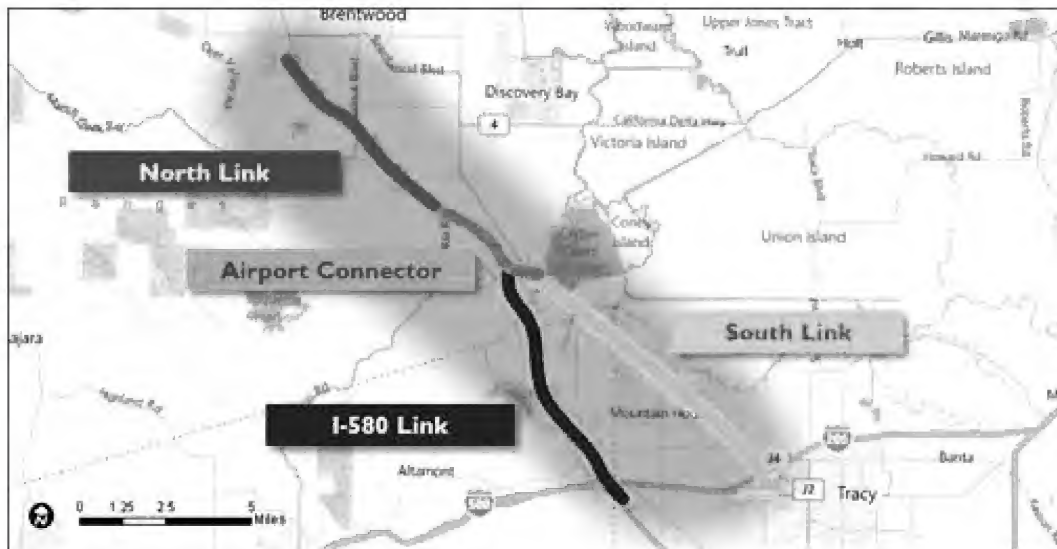
garding the Draft EIR for their statewide Vegetation Treatment Program. EBCNPS's botanists provided East-Bay Chapter specific comments for this State CNPS letter. Many other CNPS chapters throughout the state submitted comments as well. CNPS's main concerns with this document included procedural irregularities and the general lack of scientific evidence to back up the document's recommendations. In our chapter area, this plan would seriously affect chaparral areas such as the rare maritime chaparral at Knowland Park. You can view our letter as well as the DEIR here: <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/2013/03/06/cnps-submits-comments-for-board-of-forestry-s-draft-vegetation-treatment-program-eir/>

The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org.

For more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects, visit the Conservation Blog at: <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

Mack Casterman

East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst



POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

When March 2nd began it was sunny, cool, and inviting. It lived up to its promise. As the morning matured, Daisy Scouts from Martinez, accompanied by two of their parents, approached our gathering point along the Bay Trail next to Hoffman Marsh. The aptly named Daisies—ranging in age from 3 to 7 years old (shown with Tom in the photo below by Jane Kelly)—immediately got to work removing oat grass and radish from a newly reclaimed area along the trail. After getting the hang of what Tom called “pokey tools” the Daisies were promoted to planting three of the thirteen *Stipa pulchra* (purple needle grass) donated to the project by CNPS member Delia Taylor. We couldn’t have asked for more enthusiastic or charming volunteers who, while they were weeding and carefully planting the grasses, were excited by sightings of a western fence lizard, snails, and lady bugs.


Sixteen dedicated volunteers, including new volunteers, graduate students Martha and Kevin from Cal and Bernadette from Holland, worked together clearing a swath of radish and oat grass to prevent it from encroaching on the newly planted natives.

We were pleased to welcome Heath Bartosh to Pt. Isabel on February 26 to verify the identity of a plant spotted at one of our work parties by CNPS member Gudrun Kleist. We were thrilled when Heath reconfirmed it to be *Pseudognaphalium beneolens* (cudweed aka fragrant everlasting).

As always, our thanks to Scott Possin and Bruce Adams of the East Bay Regional Park District for their support.

Jane and Tom Kelly





ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE EAST BAY FLORA

NATIVE AND NATURALIZED VASCULAR PLANTS OF
ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

SECOND EDITION

BARBARA ERTTER AND LECH NAUMOVICH

For twenty years amateurs and professionals concerned with the East Bay flora have found Barbara Ertter's *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora* an indispensable resource. Now Dr. Ertter and restoration ecologist, botanist and photographer Lech Naumovich have produced a second edition incorporating a wealth of new information. The book is at the printer's and will soon be available at Native Here Nursery and at the East Bay Chapter membership programs.

Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. . . This thumbnail sketch of land as an energy circuit conveys three basic ideas: (1) That land is not merely soil, (2) That the native plants and animals kept the energy circuit open; others may or may not, (3) That man-made changes are of a different order than evolutionary changes, and have effects more comprehensive than is intended or foreseen. . . A land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity. . .

from "A land ethic" in *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold (Alta Peak)

Flowers changed the face of the planet. Without them, the world we know—even man himself—would never have existed. Francis Thompson, the English poet, once wrote that one could not pluck a flower without troubling a star. Intuitively he had sensed like a naturalist the enormous interlinked complexity of life. Today we know that the appearance of the flowers contained also the equally mystifying emergence of man.

Loren Eiseley

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MEMBERSHIP

East Bay CNPS is looking for a Membership Chair. Please contact Tim Kask at t1mothykask@gmail.com or 510-552-6168 for details about how to participate in promoting the Chapter.

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___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ___ Individual, \$45
- ___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
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- ___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
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